



Garfield Weston
FOUNDATION

Media Brief 2018

What is the Garfield Weston Foundation?

Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2018, the Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded charitable grant-making trust which supports causes across the UK with grants totalling over £60million each year. 2018 also marks its £1billionth donation since it began in 1958.

Having established one of the most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees are highly active and hands-on. The Foundation's funding comes from an endowment of shares in the family business - a successful model that still endures today and as the businesses have grown so too have the charitable donations.

- Each year the Foundation gives away its income and donations have continued to grow. Since it was established it has donated over £1billion, of which half has been given away in the past ten years alone. In the most recent financial year the Foundation gave away over £62million across the UK.
- In general, around 1,900 charities of all sizes across the UK benefit each year and a significant majority of grants are for projects and organisations across the UK's local communities and volunteer organisations.
- The Foundation has a particular reputation for flexibility as its strategy is deliberately responsive and adapts to need. Those at the front line of providing services generally create the most effective solutions so the Foundation backs talented people with practical ideas and does not impose direction.
- The common theme is an approach to quality and excellence, with work or projects demonstrating clear outcomes and benefits. Support for core costs is a particular Foundation strength as unrestricted income is especially valuable for charities and is often difficult to secure.
- The Foundation benefits from having highly active and engaged Weston Family Trustees - all Trustees are related to the Founder and they volunteer a significant amount of their personal time to review applications, visit charities, conduct referencing and meet with individuals across the charity sector.

- The Foundation has developed a reputation for the pivotal timing of its support, often making grants at a critical point in a charity's project or activity. It is also known for its open and straightforward approach - charities don't have to know anyone at the Foundation or have 'contacts', just an effective solution to meet a real social need. Applications are open and are assessed on their merits.
- The Foundation innovates where the role it plays can make a particular difference – whether through convening, making introductions, building partnerships or co-creating new approaches to strengthen the charity sector. One example is the *Weston Charity Awards* in partnership with Pilotlight which brings senior volunteers from business to mentor charities through a structured and highly effective programme.
- Currently particular emphasis is being placed on Welfare, Youth and Community organisations as these are facing particular financial challenges at present. This emphasis is also supported by a range of measures focused on specific regions which have also been especially adversely impacted – in particular Wales, Northern Ireland and the North East.

Where does the Foundation's income come from?

- When the Foundation was established in 1958 it was endowed with shares in the Weston family business – Wittington Investments – Garfield Weston effectively gave away 80% of his wealth for the benefit of the nation and this legacy has grown over time.
- The Foundation holds a majority stake (79.2%) in the family-owned holding company called Wittington Investments. Wittington has a diverse portfolio, of which the largest investment is a 54.5% stake in Associated British Foods (ABF), a publicly quoted company. Other investments include hotels (such as The Grand Hotel in Brighton), property and retail interests (such as Fortnum & Mason).
- The fact that donations have grown year on year is a direct result of the success of the underlying investments such as ABF (which owns businesses such as Primark, Twinings and Ryvita, and which provides employment for over 130,000 people). The fact that these businesses are predominantly owned by a charity enables the business to plan for the long-term which in turn creates sustainable income for the Foundation to give away.



Examples of Recent Donations:

While the Foundation funds across a broad range of categories the underlying ethos remains consistent – to support charities with talented people and effective ways to meet a clear need. The Trustees adopt a deliberate strategy to empower people and charities to create their own solutions rather than to impose a particular model or viewpoint - it is this flexibility that enables the Foundation to respond and adapt to changes in need while embracing the most effective solutions and ideas.

This practical way of working has characterised the Foundation since its inception in 1958 and has also enabled the Trustees to introduce new and innovative projects in recent years such as the Weston Charity Awards and to develop partnerships with other grant makers where working together increases impact. Recent examples of grants are below and further case studies with images can be found on the Foundation's website www.garfieldweston.org

- **Welfare:** The Foundation has been supporting organisations for the disadvantaged, disabled, vulnerable and elderly since it began in 1958 and particular focus is being placed on this category due to the current economic challenges. Examples include a capital grant of £500k to the *Salvation Army* for a community centre and café for the disabled in Liverpool and a revenue grant of £600k over 3 years for the *Prisoners Education Trust* in partnership with the *Open University* for the education of offenders to reduce reoffending and to support employment on release.
- **Youth:** A wide range of grants have been made for projects involving children and young people across the UK – these organisations include *Scouts*, *Guides* and *Cadet Forces* along with play schemes, sports clubs and youth groups. Larger grants include a capital grant to *Place2Be* for the creation of a national training centre for professionals supporting positive mental health for young people and a revenue grant of £300k over 3 years to *Tomorrow's People* for their Youth Hub in Liverpool.
- **Community:** This category is characterised by grants across all areas of the country, both rural and urban – examples include organisations such as *Home-Start* which provides trained volunteer support to vulnerable families with young children. Another example is a capital grant to *OPAL* in Leeds which renovated an old pub to create a vibrant community centre when the rent on their previous building became too expensive to sustain, the charity had also received revenue grants previously.
- **Education:** Grants in the education category encompass formal learning institutions such as schools and universities as well as charities such as *Into University* which received a grant of £500k to support their expansion across the North of England. Another example was a grant of £120k to support the merger of *Beanstalk* (formerly Volunteer Reading Help) and charity *Reading Matters* to help the two charities combine successfully and become more sustainable and cost effective. *Teach First* received a 2-year grant to extend their Ambassador programme nationally.
- **Arts, Museums & Heritage:** Grants include capital support for major national institutions such as the *Imperial War Museum* and the *Royal Shakespeare Company* along with revenue grants such as to the *National Theatre* for touring parts of the country with more limited cultural offerings. The Foundation also partnered with the *Natural History Museum* for 'Dippy on Tour' which will take the iconic diplodocus across the country over the next 3 years, aiming to inspire learning about the natural world and engage new audiences in unusual locations such as Norwich Cathedral. Numerous smaller and regional museums received support such as the *Lake Windermere Trust*, *Manchester Jewish Museum* and *Derby Silk Mill*.
- **Health:** In this category the Foundation focuses on translational work with direct patient benefit, on capital grants and on core costs for smaller charities supporting those with rare conditions. Examples of capital grants made in the past year include £300k to *Strathclyde University* in Glasgow for their new biomechanical engineering department and £411k to *Edinburgh University* for a new antimicrobial research lab – both aiming to pioneer science of benefit to all.
- **Environment:** Grants in this category span a range of activity from conservation projects to education and research. A pledge of £750k was made to *The Deep* in Hull towards the creation of a new Learning Institute and to help stimulate fundraising capacity in the organisation for future sustainability. Capital grants were made to the *Wildlife Trust* in Gloucestershire to support a new learning centre and a £150k pledge to the *Scottish Seabird Centre*, also for a new education centre. Revenue grants included core costs for *Oceana* for marine conservation and £80k for the *Campaign to Protect Rural England* for work to reduce litter.